

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of transferring files over a computer network from a network server to a client, the method comprising:
 - storing independently of information from the network server a public encryption key and a private encryption key in a client computer system;
 - sending a request for a data file from said client to a the network server; and
 - in response to said request, (1) checking a file attribute to determine that said file is to be encrypted with said public encryption key, (2) automatically retrieving said public encryption key from said client computer system, (3) encrypting said data file with said public encryption key in said server automatically and without user intervention; and
 - sending said encrypted data file to said client computer system.
2. Cancelled.
3. Cancelled
4. Cancelled.
5. (Currently Amended) A method of data storage and retrieval comprising:
 - automatically generating independently of information from a network server a public key and a corresponding private key in a client computer system;
 - storing said public key and said private key in said client computer system;
 - requesting an unencrypted data file from a the network server using said client computer system;
 - requesting said public key from said client computer system automatically and without user intervention;
 - encrypting, in said network server, said unencrypted data file with said public key to create an encrypted data file;
 - routing said encrypted data file to said client computer system; and
 - storing said encrypted data file on a storage medium in said client computer system.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, additionally comprising the step of associating an attribute with said file, said attribute indicating said file is unencrypted when stored on said network server.

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7. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said public key and said private key are based on a password entered by a user when logging on to said client computer system.

8. (Currently Amended) A computer readable data storage medium having stored thereon commands that are operative to cause a general purpose computer configured as a network server to perform a method of data retrieval comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for a data file from a client computer system;

in response thereto, automatically requesting a public key from said client computer system, the public key being originated independently of the network server;

automatically encrypting said data file using said public key; and

routing said encrypted data to said client computer system.

9. (Original) The data storage medium of Claim 8, wherein the method additionally comprises the step of checking a file attribute indicating said file is in unencrypted form prior to performing said encrypting.